

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 May 2003 (15.05.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/039886 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: B42D 15/00, B42F 7/06

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB02/05032

(22) International Filing Date:
7 November 2002 (07.11.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0126832.5 8 November 2001 (08.11.2001) GB

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: MCDONALD, George, Wallace [—/—]; Mon Cachet, Rue de la Cache, Castel, Guernsey, Channel Islands (GB).

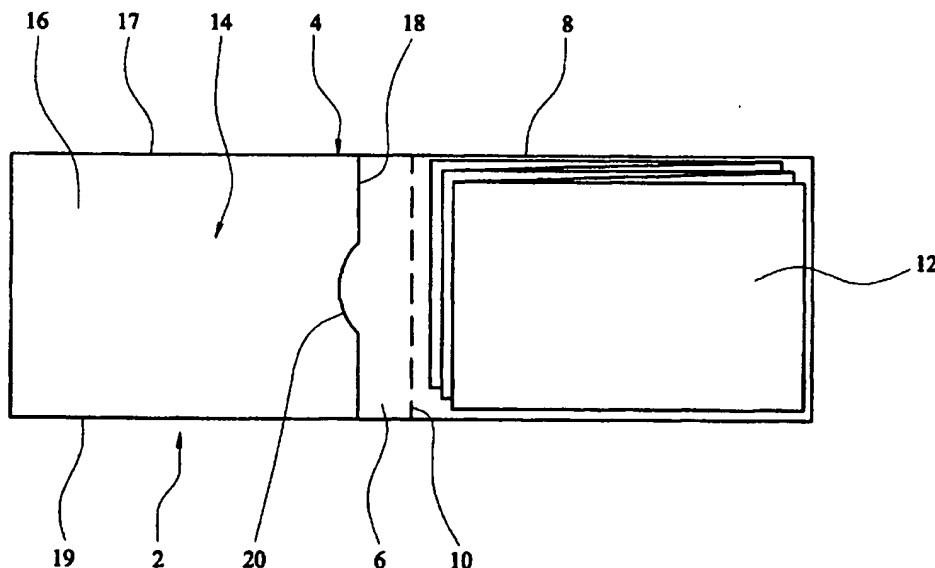
Published:

— with international search report

(74) Agents: NEILL, Alastair, William et al.; Appleyard Lees, 15 Clare Road, Halifax HX1 2HY (GB).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO SHEET ARTICLES



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a sheet article (2) comprising a cover comprising hingedly connected first and second surfaces (6, 8), wherein on the inside of the cover is connected a sheet material having a first set of folds, and wherein the second surface (6) comprises a pocket (16) on the inside of the second surface, the opening of the pocket facing the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces.

WO 03/039886 A1

IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO SHEET ARTICLESField of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to sheet articles. The invention also relates to kits comprising sheet articles.

Background to the Invention

10 It is known to provide sheet articles comprising card covers having first and second surfaces folded over to provide front and back covers, and which include a pocket formed on the inside of one of the covers. It is also known for such items to comprise a plurality of sheets
15 glued into the fold of the cover to provide a booklet flanked by the front and back covers.

US 6120228 (Exline) discloses a wallet size pocketed booklet having front and back covers formed from a single
20 sheet of material folded over, and including a plurality of sheets forming a booklet glued to said fold. The front cover also has a pocket glued thereon, and wherein the opening of the pocket faces transverse to the fold of the cover. Articles placed in the pocket can inadvertently
25 slip out of the pocket, and as the opening of the pocket faces away from the fold, and therefore away from the cover, the article is free to fall out of the pocket without much hindrance. Furthermore, the information stored within the booklet is presented on a plurality of
30 sheets, which are relatively difficult to access, and only certain pieces of the information may be read at one time, with the user having to flick through the sheets to locate further pieces of information.

US 6089608 (Exline) discloses a wallet size card booklet comprising a cover having front and back covers separated by a fold therebetween. The booklet also comprises a
5 pocket formed on the inside of the front cover, with the opening facing towards the fold of the cover. The booklet also comprises a plurality of sheets glued into the fold and extending away from the fold to provide the booklet. Although the provision of a pocket having an opening
10 facing towards to the fold means that there is much less likelihood of an article which has been inserted into the pocket from inadvertently falling out of the booklet, the same problems remain relating to the provision of information in booklet form.

15

US 5595401 (Exline) discloses a wallet size card booklet comprising a cover having front and back surfaces folded over therebetween. The cover includes a pocket formed on the inside of front cover, the pocket having an opening
20 facing perpendicular to the axis of the fold of the cover. The cover also includes a plurality of sheets glued into the fold which form the booklet. Again, any article placed within the pocket of the booklet may inadvertently slip out of the pocket due to the fact that the opening of
25 the pocket faces away from the cover, there being no security provision to prevent articles from inadvertently falling out. Furthermore, the provision of the information in a booklet form again leads to problems in locating specific pieces of information, and being able to
30 print larger pieces of information on a single booklet sheet.

It is therefore an aim of preferred embodiments of the invention to overcome or mitigate at least one of the problems associated with the prior art, whether explicitly disclosed herein or not.

5

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention in a first aspect, there is provided a sheet article comprising a cover
10 comprising hingedly connected first and second surfaces, wherein on the inside of the cover is connected a sheet material having a first set of folds, and wherein the second surface comprises a pocket on the inside of the second surface, the opening of the pocket facing the
15 hinged connection between the first and second surfaces.

Suitably the sheet material is connected to the inside of the first surface.

20 Alternatively the sheet material may be connected to the pocket on the inside of the second surface.

Preferably the first set of folds is concertina folds.

25 Suitably the sheet material further comprises at least one fold transverse to the first set of folds, preferably a second set of folds. Preferably the second set of folds is concertina folds.

30 Suitably the sheet material is provided with a stiff portion at a segment thereof.

Suitably the sheet material is connected to the first surface at a segment of the sheet at one corner of the sheet the segment being defined by fold(s) or edge(s) of the sheet.

5

Preferably the segment at which the stiff portion is provided is at another corner of the sheet material and is defined by fold(s) or edge(s) of the sheet.

10 Preferably the first and second surfaces are formed from a single surface comprising a fold therein, the fold forming the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces.

15 Alternatively the first and second surfaces may comprise separate surfaces hingedly connected, which may, for example, be by way of gluing, stitching, stapling, binding or the like or by way of a separate connecting member or surface, for example; or by way of the sheet material
20 itself.

Preferably the pocket is formed from a portion of the second surface folded in on itself, and sealed to the second surface to form a pocket. Suitably the pocket is
25 sealed to the second surface by gluing, stitching, stapling, binding or the like.

Alternatively the pocket may be formed from a separate surface connected to the inside of the second surface of
30 the cover such that an opening is formed. The separate surface may be connected by any suitable means, such as gluing, stitching, stapling, binding or the like.

The pocket may comprise a separate distinct pocket which is attached to the inside of the second surface. The separate pocket may be attached by gluing, stitching, stapling, binding or the like.

5

Suitably the pocket is formed such that it comprises no free edges within the interior of the pocket.

The edge of the opening of the pocket may comprise a recessed or cut-out portion, to enable a user to more easily grasp an article placed in the pocket.

The pocket may comprise means to retard accidental egress of an article from the pocket, but allow deliberate removal therefrom.

According to the present invention in a second aspect there is provided a sheet article comprising a cover comprising hingedly connected first and second surfaces, and wherein the second surface comprises a pocket on the inside of the surface, the opening of the pocket facing the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces, and wherein the sheet article comprises a tongue extendable from the first surface into the pocket of the second surface, the distance of extension of the tongue into the pocket being adjustable by relative movement of the first and second surfaces about the hinged connection.

Suitably the sheet article further comprises a sheet material connected to the inside of the cover.

The sheet material may be connected to the pocket on the inside of the second surface.

Suitably the sheet material is connected to the inside of the first surface of the cover.

- 5 The sheet material may comprise a plurality of sheets which are connected to form a booklet.

Preferably the sheet material comprises a sheet material comprising a first set of folds, preferably concertina
10 folds. The sheet material is preferably as described for the first aspect of the invention.

Suitably the pocket is as described for the first aspect of the invention.

15

The cover and first and second surfaces may be as described for the first aspect of the invention.

Suitably the tongue comprises a portion of the first
20 surface folded in on itself. Alternatively the tongue may comprise a separate surface connected to the first surface of the cover.

Suitably the tongue comprises a retaining member for
25 operatively retaining an article inserted into the pocket during movement of the tongue within the pocket.

Preferably the tongue is moveable between a first position in which a retained article protrudes a first distance
30 from the pocket, and a second position in which a retained article protrudes a second distance from the pocket, and wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance. Preferably when the tongue is in the first

position, a retained article does not protrude across the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces of the cover.

- 5 In the second position, a retained article may protrude past the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces.

Suitably the retaining member comprises a portion of the
10 tongue, and preferably in the region of the distal end of the tongue, folded in on itself to provide a recess in which an article may be retained. Alternatively the retaining member may comprise a separate member connected to the tongue.

15

Preferably the pocket is dimensioned such that it can accommodate credit-card sized articles. By credit-card sized articles we mean items that are substantially 8½cm long by 5cm wide. Suitably the pocket has dimensions
20 slightly larger than credit-card sized articles to allow the articles to fit easily and snugly into the pocket.

According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a sheet article comprising a cover comprising
25 hingedly connected first and second surfaces, wherein the cover comprises a sheet material connected to the inside of the cover, the second surface comprises a pocket, with the opening of the pocket facing the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces, and wherein the
30 second surface comprises a second hinge which is rotatable to enable a marginal portion of an item inserted in the pocket to be presented.

The pocket may be connected on the inside of the second surface or the outside of the second surface.

Suitably the sheet material is connected to the inside of
5 the first surface.

Alternatively the sheet material may be connected to the pocket on the inside of the second surface.

10 The sheet material may comprise a plurality of sheets which are connected to form a booklet, but preferably the sheet material is a sheet material comprising a first set of folds preferably concertina folds.

15 The sheet material is preferably as described as for the first and/or second aspects of the invention.

Suitably the second hinge is located between the opening of the pocket, and the hinged connection of the first and
20 second surfaces.

Preferably the second hinge comprises a fold in the second surface.

25 The pocket is preferably as described for the first and/or second aspects of the invention.

The cover and first and second surfaces may be as described for the first aspect of the invention.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The present invention will now be described, by way of
5 example only, with reference to the following drawings, in
which:-

Figure 1 illustrates a plan view of a first embodiment of
a sheet article in accordance with the present invention.

10

Figure 2 shows a plan view of a second embodiment of a
sheet article according to the present invention;

Figure 3 illustrates a plan view of a third embodiment of
15 a sheet article according to the present invention;

Figure 4 illustrates a plan view of a fourth embodiment of
a sheet article according to the present invention;

20 Figure 5A shows a side sectional view taken through the
line A-A of the sheet article of Figure 4, with the sheet
article in a first, partly unfolded state; and

Figure 5B shows a side sectional view taken through the
25 line A-A of Figure 4, with the sheet article in a second,
partly folded state.

Figure 6 illustrates a side sectional view of a fifth
embodiment of a sheet article according to the present
30 invention;

Figure 7 illustrates a plan view of a sixth embodiment of
a sheet article according to the present invention;

Figure 8 illustrates a plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 7 having a card article inserted into the pocket;

5

Figure 9 illustrates a plan view of a seventh embodiment of a sheet article according to the present invention;

Figure 10 illustrates a plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 9 having a card article inserted into the pocket;

Figure 11A illustrates a side sectional view through the line B-B of Figure 10, in a first partly unfolded state, with the card article extending towards the fold of the cover;

Figure 11B illustrates a side sectional view through the line B-B of Figure 10, in a second partly unfolded state, with the second hinge of the first surface of the cover rotated to present the marginal portion of the card article away from the cover;

Figure 12 illustrates a plan view of an eighth embodiment of a sheet article according to the invention;

~~Figure 13 illustrates a plan view of a ninth embodiment of a sheet article according to the invention;~~

Figure 14 illustrates a plan view of a tenth embodiment of a sheet article according to the invention;

Figure 15 illustrates a plan view of a shaped card sheet for use as a pocket to be attached to a sheet article of the present invention;

- 5 Figure 16 illustrates a plan view of an eleventh embodiment of a sheet article according to the invention; and

Figure 17 illustrates a plan view of a twelfth embodiment
10 of a sheet article according to the invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring firstly to Figures 1 and 2 a sheet article 2
15 comprises a cover 4 which includes a first surface 6 and a second surface 8 formed from the same sheet material, and hingedly connected about a fold 10 formed in the cover 4. On the inside of the first surface 8, a concertina folded sheet material 12 is connected. The second surface 6
20 includes a pocket 14 which comprises a pocket cover 16 formed by folding over a portion of the second surface 6, and gluing the side edges 17 and 19 of the folded over pocket cover 16 to the second surface, to form the pocket 14. In this configuration, the opening 18 of the pocket,
25 faces towards the fold 10 between the first surface 8 and the second surface 6. The opening 18 also includes a thumb cut 20.

In both Figures 1 and 2, the sheet article 2 comprises a
30 pocket 16 which is approximately credit-card sized, and is arranged to accommodate a credit-card sized item, such as a credit-card or information card of similar size. The sheet articles 2 of Figures 1 and 2 differ only in the

orientation of first surface 8, second surface 6 and pocket 16, in that in Figure 1 the cover 4 is hingedly connected with the first 8 and second 6 surfaces in a landscape orientation compared to the cover 4 in Figure 2 in which the first 8 and second 6 surfaces are oriented in a portrait orientation. Thus, credit-card sized items arranged to be inserted into the pocket 14 of Figure 1 will be inserted by inserting one of the shorter edges of the credit-card sized item first, whereas for the sheet article 2 of Figure 2, the credit-card sized item will be inserted with one of the longer edges entering the pocket 14 first.

As the edge of the edge 18 of the opening of the pocket 14 in the sheet articles 2 of both Figures 1 and 2 faces towards the fold 10 of the cover 4, when an item is inserted into the pocket 14, and the cover 4 folded about the fold 10, the credit-card sized item is effectively secured in the pocket 14, and cannot be inadvertently removed, or slip out, due to the barrier effect of cover 4 and fold 10. Furthermore, in this configuration the concertina folded sheet material 12 allows a large amount of information to be placed on the sheet material, which can be viewed at any one time by simply unfolding the concertina material to provide a large surface area sheet having a maximum amount of information presented to the viewer at any one time. This overcomes the problem of providing information on leaves in a booklet, which must be leafed through in order to find relevant information. Further, the spine of a leafed booklet may interfere in the extraction of an item from opening 18.

In an alternative embodiment (not shown) to those illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the sheet material 12 may be connected on the pocket 14, rather than the first surface 8.

5

We refer now to Figures 3, 4, 5A and 5B, which comprise sheet articles 2, that are similar to sheet articles of Figures 1 and 2. Like numerals represent like components. In the embodiments of the sheet articles 2 shown in
10 Figures 3 and 4, the cover 4 comprises a first surface 8 and a second surface 6 hinged two folds 10 and 11. The sheet articles 2 also comprise a tongue 22 which is connected to the first surface 8 at pivot 9 by gluing. The tongue 22 extends into the pocket 14. The tongue 22
15 also includes a retaining member 24 in the form of a folded over portion of tongue 22 at its distal, free end within the pocket 14.

In use, the cover 4 of the sheet article 2 is unfolded
20 about the fold 10, such that the first and second surfaces 8 and 6 are at an obtuse angle, as shown in Figure 5A. In this position, a credit-card sized item may be inserted into the pocket 14, on top of the tongue 22, until it abuts the recess formed by the retaining member 24.

25

When it is desired to close the sheet article 2, the first and second surfaces 8 and 6 are folded towards each other about fold 10. As the first and second surfaces 8 and 6 come together, the tongue 22 pivots about the pivot point
30 9, and the distal free end of the tongue 22 comprising the retaining member 24 moves further into the pocket 14, as shown in Figure 5B. Furthermore, the second surface 6 also pivots around fold 11, to allow the tongue 22 to move

further into the pocket 14, by providing an effective spacing surface 13 as shown in Figure 5B.

As the concertina sheet material 12 packs relatively flat,
5 the first and second surfaces 8 and 6 may be folded over to provide a relatively flat credit-card sized sheet article 2.

When it is desired to remove the credit-card sized item
10 present in the pocket 14, the first and second surfaces 8 and 6 are unfolded about the folds 10 and 11 until the first and second surfaces 8 and 6 are at an obtuse angle, as shown in Figure 5A. As the first and second surfaces 8 and 6 are unfolded, the tongue 22 pivots about the pivot
15 point 9 and is withdrawn to a certain extent from the pocket 14. Due to the presence of the retaining member 24, the credit-card sized item present in the pocket 14 is also withdrawn along with the tongue 22, such that a larger portion of the credit-card sized item extends
20 beyond the opening 18 of the pocket 14. In this position, the credit-card sized item may be grasped by the user and removed from the sheet article 2.

Again, as in the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2, the
25 orientation of the edge 18 of the opening of the pocket 14 towards the fold 10, means that when the sheet article 2 is in the folded position, the credit-card sized item is prevented from inadvertently slipping out or being removed by the restraining nature of the first and second surfaces
30 8 and 6 and the spacing surface 13.

In other embodiments similar to those described for Figures 3 and 4, the concertina sheet material 12 may be

replaced by a booklet of leaves of paper, card or the like.

Referring now to Figure 6, in a further preferred
5 embodiment of the sheet article 2 according to the present invention, the tongue 22 is formed from a folded over portion 25 of the first surface 8 which has been glued to the first surface 8. The tongue 22 also comprises a pivot
26 in the form of a fold, which allows rotation of the
10 tongue 22. Operation of the embodiment shown in Figure 6 is essentially the same as operation of the embodiments shown in Figures 3, 4, 5A and 5B.

We refer now to Figures 7, 8, 9, 10, 11A and 11B, which
15 illustrate sheet articles 2 which are similar to the sheet article 2 of the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2. Like numerals represent like components. In the embodiments of the sheet articles 2 of Figures 7 and 8, the cover 4 comprises a first surface 8 and a second surface 6 hinged
20 by a fold 10 in the cover 4. The first surface 8 includes a second hinge 28 which is formed by a second fold in the cover 4. The second hinge 28 is located between the opening 18 of the pocket 14 and the fold 10. The distance which the second hinge 28 extends beyond the opening 18 of
25 the pocket 14 is arranged such that an item such as a credit-card 30, inserted into the pocket 14, extends beyond the second hinge 28 on the first surface 8, as shown in Figures 9 and 10.

30 The difference between the embodiments shown in Figures 7 and 8 on the one hand, and Figures 9 and 10 on the other hand, is the size and orientation of the cover 4 and pocket 14. In the embodiments shown in Figure 7 and 8,

the size and orientation of the cover 4 and pocket 14 are such that a credit-card 30, or similar sized item, can be inserted such that one of its shorter edges protrudes from the pocket towards the fold 10 in the cover to display a marginal portion. In the embodiments shown in Figures 9 and 10, the size and orientation of the cover 4 and pocket 14 is such that one of the longer edges of the credit-card 30, or similar sized object is presented as a marginal portion.

10

The embodiments shown in Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10 are operated in a similar manner to those of Figures 1 and 2.

Referring now to Figures 11A and 11B, in use the cover 4 of the sheet article 2 is unfolded about the fold 10 such that the first surface 8 and second surface 6 lie at an obtuse angle to each other, as shown in Figure 11A. A credit-card 30 or similar sized article can then be placed in the pocket 14, and if desired the cover 4 folded about the fold 10 to move the first and second surfaces substantially adjacent and flush.

When it is desired to remove the credit-card 30, the cover 4 is first unfolded to the position shown in Figure 11A. Subsequently the distal portion of the first surface 8 is rotated about the second hinge 28 until the marginal portion 34 of the credit-card 30 is presented for easy withdrawal by a user, as shown in Figure 11B. Due to the marginal portion 34 of the credit-card being presented at an angle to the plane of the second surface 6, a user can easily grasp the marginal portion 34 with his or her fingers without first having to try and lever the card or pocket opening 18.

Referring to Figure 12, an eighth embodiment of a sheet article is similar to the sheet articles of Figures 1 and 2. Like numerals represent like features.

5

The sheet article 2 of Figure 12 has a cover which includes first 8 and second 6 surfaces, as in the embodiment shown in Figure 1, and further includes a third surface 36, hingedly connected to the first surface 8 by
10 way of a fold 38 between the first 8 and third 36 surfaces.

Use of the embodiment shown in Figure 12 is similar to that for the embodiment in Figure 1, with the exception
15 that the second or third surface 6 or 36 may be folded about its respective fold 10 or 38 firstly, then the other of the second or third surface folded about its respective fold on top of the folded article.

20 The extra folded surface helps to prevent any article placed in the pocket 14 from inadvertently slipping out, or being removed.

In other embodiments, (not shown) a second pocket may be
25 connected to the inside of the third surface 36 for retaining a further article or articles. Alternatively or additionally the third surface 36 may have a second sheet material connected to the inside of the surface, or on the second pocket, if present.

30

Referring to Figure 13, a ninth embodiment of a sheet article is similar to the embodiments of Figures 7, 8 and 12. Like numerals represent like components.

The cover 4 of the embodiment illustrated in Figure 13, includes a third surface 36, as described for the embodiment shown in Figure 12. The second 6 and third 36
5 surfaces of the embodiment shown in Figure 13 also include second hinges 28 and 40 respectively formed from folds in the second and third surfaces.

The third surface 36 also includes a second pocket 42.

10

Use of the embodiment shown in Figure 13 is essentially a combination of uses of the embodiments in Figures 7 and 12. Thus, credit-cards or similar sized articles are placed in each of the pockets 14 and 42, such that a
15 marginal portion extends beyond the folds 28 and 40 respectively. The sheet article can then be folded up as described for the embodiment in Figure 12.

When it is desired to remove either or both credit-cards,
20 the sheet article 2 can be unfolded about the folds 10 and 38 then the distal portions of the second and/or third surfaces 6 and 36 rotated about the folds 28 and 40 to present the margin of the credit-card out of the plane of the first surface 8 and/or third surface 36 for easy
25 handling by a user.

In further embodiments, sheet material may be connected to either or both pockets 14 and 36.

30 Referring now to Figure 14, a tenth embodiment is similar to the embodiments illustrates in Figures 4 and 12. Like numerals represent like components.

The sheet article 2 of Figure 14 includes a third surface 36 of the cover 4, as described for the embodiment of Figure 12, and a tongue 22 as described for the embodiment of Figure 4.

5

Use of the embodiment shown in Figure 14 is essentially a combination of the uses described for the embodiments of Figures 4 and 12.

10 In other embodiments similar to that illustrated in Figure 14, the third surface may include a second pocket and a second tongue extending into the second pocket. The pockets on the second and third surfaces may include a connected sheet material. If there is no second pocket on
15 the third surface, then a second sheet material may be connected directly to the inside of the third surface.

Figure 15 illustrates a card sheet 44 which is suitable for forming a pocket to be connected to a sheet article
20 according to the invention, which pocket does not have any internal edges extending into the pocket. Thus, an article deposited in the pocket cannot snag or catch on any raised edges, thereby damaging the pocket or making it harder to remove the article.

25

The card sheet 44 comprises a first 46, second 48, and third 50 and fourth 51 surfaces. The first surface 46 is hingedly connected to each of the second 48, third 50 and fourth 51 surfaces by way of folds 52 and 54 respectively
30 in the card sheet 44. The second surface 48 is connected along the fold 52 between the lower edge of the first surface 46 and the upper edge of the second surface. The third 50 and fourth 51 surfaces are connected along the

folds 54 at the side edges of the first surface 46. Thus the shape of the card sheet 44 is essentially cruciform with the third 50 and fourth 51 surfaces forming the arms of the cross, and the second surface 48 forming the stem.

5

The third 50 and fourth 51 surfaces have a width less than that of the first 46 and second 48 surfaces.

The first surface also comprises a cut-out portion 56 in
10 its free edge 58.

In use, a pocket may be formed by firstly folding the second surface 48 about the fold 52 until the second and first surfaces lie substantially flush and parallel with
15 the distal edge 60 of the second surface 48 lying substantially parallel with the free edge 58 of the first surface.

The third 50 and fourth 51 surfaces are then folded about
20 the folds 54 on top of the second surface 48 and glued onto said second surface by a suitable adhesive. Thus a pocket is formed in which there are no internal edges in the pocket which extend into the pocket.

25 The pocket may then be connected to a sheet article according to the invention by any suitable means, such as gluing, stitching, stapling or the like, onto the inside of the first surface of the sheet article.

30 Figure 16 illustrates a sheet article similar to that shown in Figure 12. Like numerals represent like features. In the embodiment shown in Figure 16 the sheet article 2 comprises first 8, second 6 and third 36

surfaces, connected in a landscape orientation. The third surface 36 comprises a second pocket 42 in which the opening 44 is orientated to face perpendicular to the folds 10 and 38. In this way, a credit card or similar
5 item may be inserted in the second pocket 42 such that a longer edge of the credit card is inserted foremost.

In other embodiments similar to that of Figure 16, the first pocket may include a tongue extending into the first
10 pocket. The pockets on the second and third surfaces may also include a folded sheet material.

Figure 17 illustrates an embodiment of a sheet article similar to that shown in Figures 7, 8, 9, 10, 11A and 11B.
15 Like numerals represent like features. In the embodiment shown in Figure 17, the sheet article comprises first 10, second 45, and third 46 folds in the cover 4. The second fold 45 is located in the same position as the second hinge 28 of the embodiments shown in Figures 7, 8, 9, 10,
20 11A and 11B. The third fold 46 is located on the second surface 6 between the opening of the pocket 18 and the second fold 45.

This embodiment is particularly useful for when the sheet
25 material 12 projects a significant depth out of the first surface 8 when folded. In use, when the sheet material 12 is folded, the cover is first folded about the fold 10 to move the first 8 and second 6 surfaces towards each other. The cover 4 is then folded about the second fold 45 such
30 that the cover forms a substantially C-shaped configuration with the surface 48 between the first 10 and second 45 folds forming the back of the C. Thus the back of the C-shaped configuration provides a space between the

first 8 and second 6 surfaces in which lies the folded sheet 12. The third fold 46 is used in an identical manner to the second fold 28 of the embodiments of Figures 7, 8, 9, 10, 11A and 11B, to present an article located in the pocket 18, out of the plane of the second surface 6.

The reader's attention is directed to all papers and documents which are filed concurrently with or previous to this specification in connection with this application and which are open to public inspection with this specification, and the contents of all such papers and documents are incorporated herein by reference.

All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive.

Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing embodiment(s). The invention extend to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel

combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

Claims

1. A sheet article comprising a cover comprising hingedly connected first and second surfaces, wherein on the
5 inside of the cover is connected a sheet material having a first set of folds, and wherein the second surface comprises a pocket on the inside of the second surface, the opening of the pocket facing the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces.
10
2. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sheet material is connected to the inside of the first surface.
- 15 3. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the first set of folds is concertina folds.
4. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the sheet material further comprises at
20 least one fold transverse to the first set of folds.
5. A sheet article as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one fold is a second set of folds.
- 25 6. A sheet article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the sheet material is connected to the first surface at a segment of the sheet at one corner of the sheet, the segment being defined by fold(s) or edge(s) of the sheet.
30
7. A sheet article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the sheet material is provided with a stiff portion at a segment thereof.

8. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the segment at which the stiff portion is provided is at a corner of the sheet material and is defined by fold(s) or edge(s) of the sheet.
9. A sheet article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first and second surfaces are formed from a single surface comprising a fold therein, the fold forming the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces.
10. A sheet article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the pocket is formed from a portion of the second surface folded in on itself, and sealed to the second surface to form a pocket.
11. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein the pocket is formed from a separate surface connected to the inside of the second surface of the cover such that an opening is formed.
12. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein the pocket comprises a separate distinct pocket which is attached to the inside of the second surface.
13. A sheet article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the pocket is formed such that it comprises no free edges within the interior of the pocket.
14. A sheet article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the edge of the opening of the pocket

comprises a recessed or cut-out portion, to enable a user to more easily grasp an article placed in the pocket.

- 5 15. A sheet article as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the pocket may comprise means to retard accidental egress of an article from the pocket, but allow deliberate removal therefrom.
- 10 16. A sheet article comprising a cover comprising hingedly connected first and second surfaces, and wherein the second surface comprises a pocket on the inside of the surface, the opening of the pocket facing the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces, and
- 15 wherein the sheet article comprises a tongue extendable from the first surface into the pocket of the second surface, the distance of extension of the tongue into the pocket being adjustable by relative movement of the first and second surfaces about the
- 20 hinged connection.
17. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the sheet article further comprises a sheet material connected to the inside of the cover.
- 25 18. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 16 or 17, wherein the sheet material is connected to the pocket on the inside of the second surface.
- 30 19. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 16 or 17, wherein the sheet material is connected to the inside of the first surface of the cover.

20. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 19, wherein the sheet material comprises a plurality of sheets which are connected to form a booklet.
- 5 21. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 19, wherein the sheet material comprises a first set of folds.
- 10 22. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 16, comprising a sheet material as described in any one of Claims 1 to 15.
- 15 23. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 16, comprising a pocket as described in any one of Claims 1 to 15.
24. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the first and second surfaces are as described in any one of Claims 1 to 15.
- 20 25. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 16 to 24, wherein the tongue comprises a portion of the first surface folded in on itself.
- 25 26. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 24, wherein the tongue comprises a separate surface connected to the first surface of the cover.
- 30 27. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 26, wherein the tongue comprises a retaining member for operatively retaining an article inserted into the pocket during movement of the tongue within the pocket.

28. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the retaining member comprises a portion of the tongue folded in on itself to provide a recess in which an article may be retained.
- 5
29. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 28, wherein the tongue is moveable between a first position in which a retained article protrudes a first distance from the pocket, and a second position in which a retained article protrudes a second distance from the pocket, and wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.
- 10
30. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 28, wherein when the tongue is in the first position a retained article does not protrude across the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces of the cover.
- 15
31. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 29 or 30, wherein in the second position, a retained article may protrude past the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces.
- 20
32. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 31, wherein the pocket is dimensioned such that it can accommodate credit card sized articles.
- 25
33. A sheet article comprising a cover comprising hingedly connected first and second surfaces, wherein the cover comprises a sheet material connected to the inside of the cover, the second surface comprises a pocket, with the opening of the pocket facing the hinged connection between the first and second surfaces, and wherein the
- 30

second surface comprises a second hinge which is rotatable to enable a marginal portion of an item inserted into the pocket to be presented.

- 5 34. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the pocket is connected on the inside of the second surface or the outside of the second surface.
- 10 35. A sheet article as claimed in Claim 33 or 34, wherein the sheet material is connected to the inside of the first surface.
- 15 36. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 33 to 35, wherein the sheet material comprises a plurality of sheets which are connected to form a booklet.
- 20 37. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 33 to 35, wherein the sheet material is a sheet material comprising a first set of folds.
38. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 33 to 37, wherein the sheet material is as described in any one of Claims 1 to 32.
- 25 39. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 33 to 37, wherein the second hinge is located between the opening of the pocket, and the hinged connection of the first and second surfaces.
- 30 40. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 33 to 38, wherein the second hinge comprises a fold in the second surface.

41. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 33 to 40, wherein the pocket is as described in any one of Claims 1 to 32.
- 5 42. A sheet article as claimed in any one of Claims 33 to 41, wherein the first and second surfaces are as described in any one of Claims 1 to 15.
- 10 43. A sheet article substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

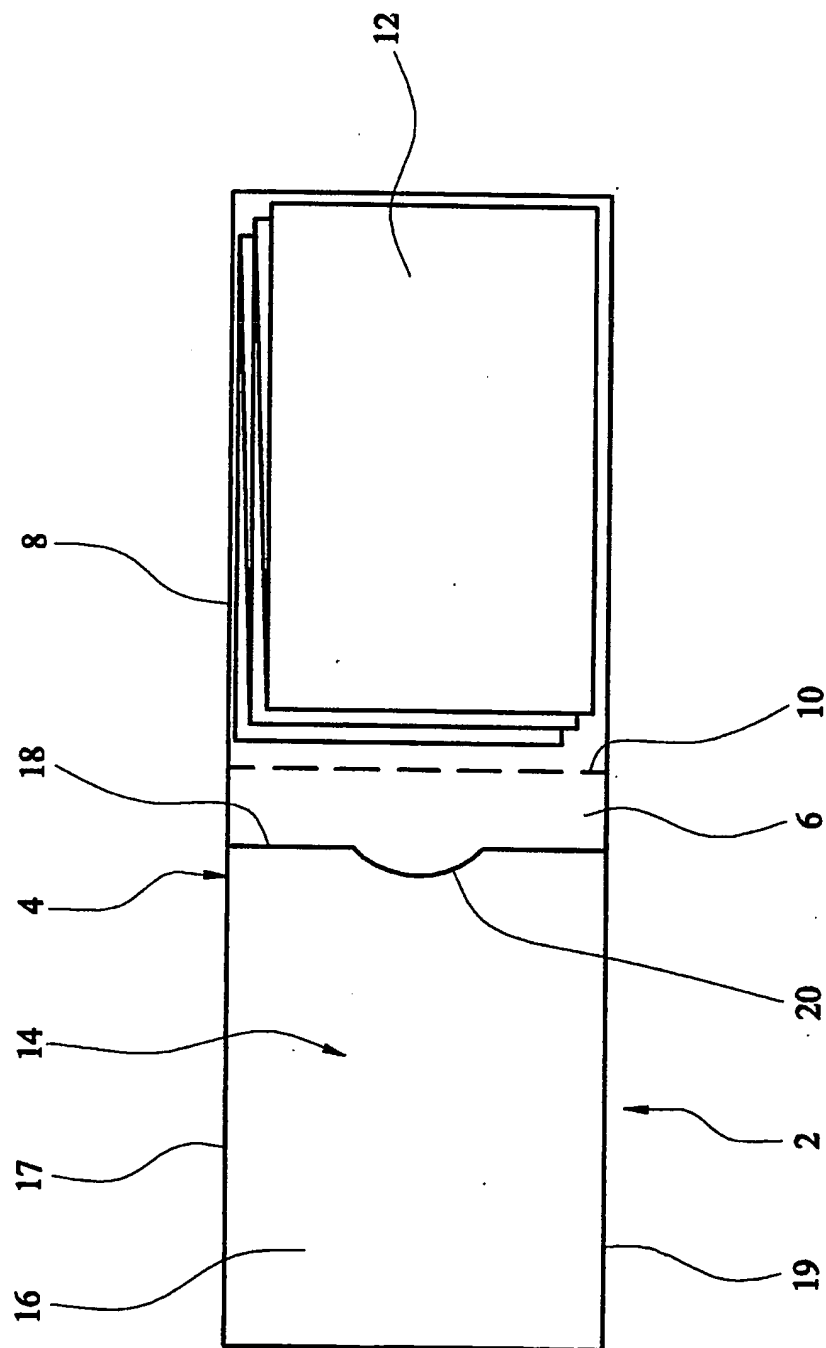


FIG. 1

-2/14-

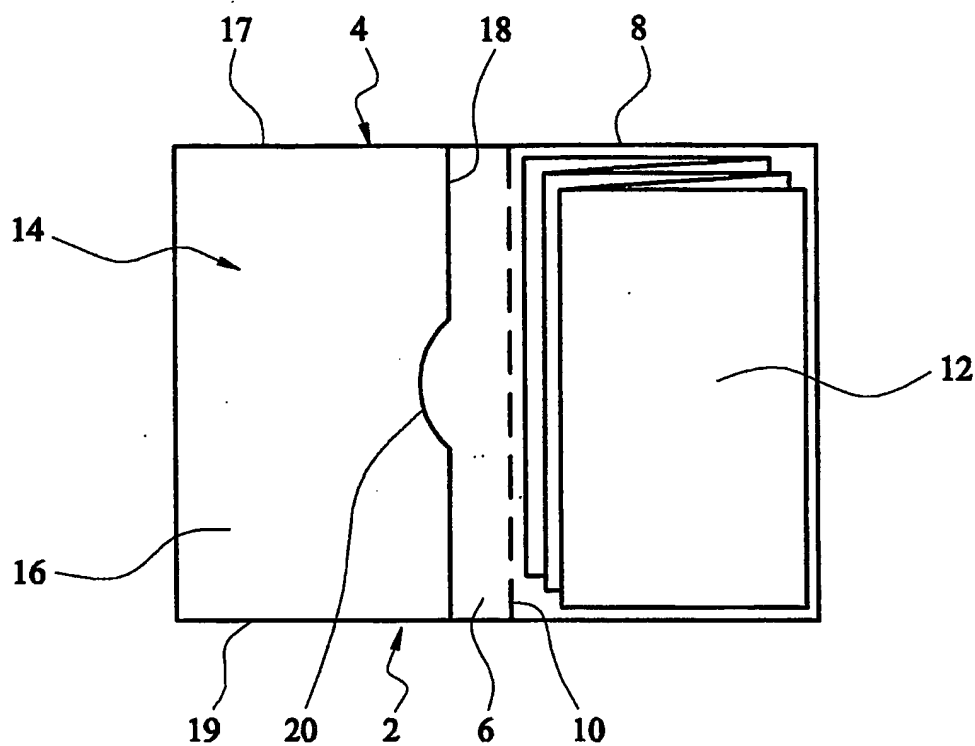


FIG. 2

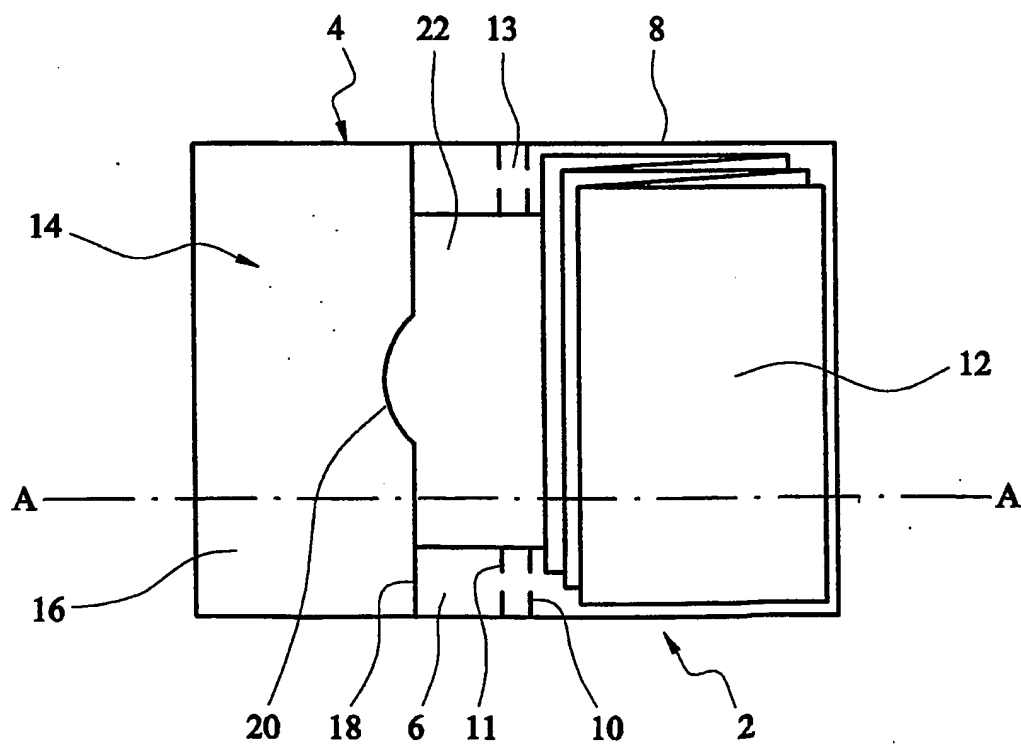


FIG. 4

-3/14-

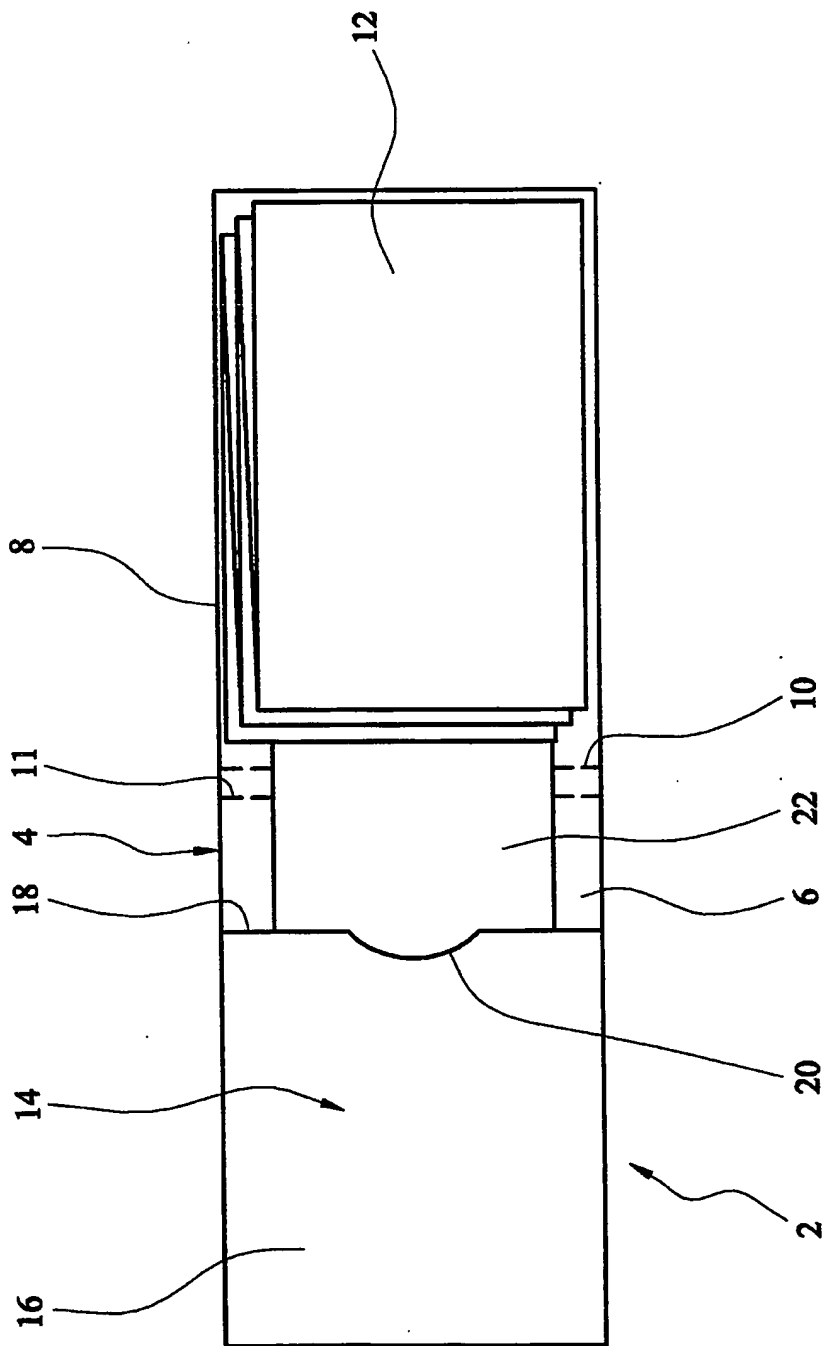


FIG. 3

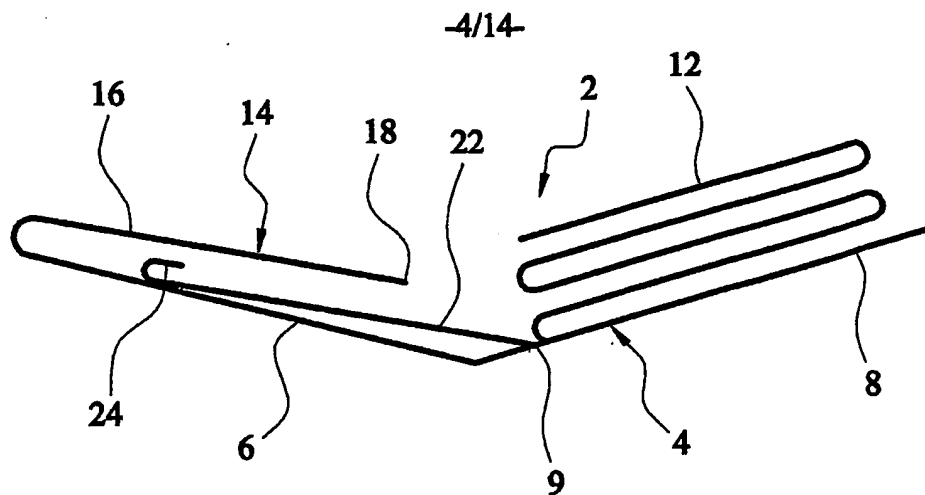


FIG. 5A

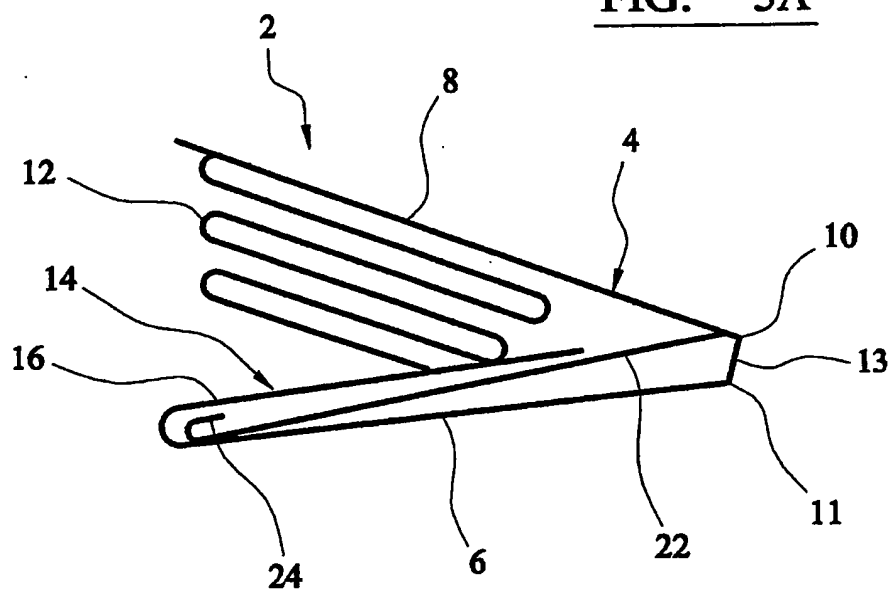


FIG. 5B

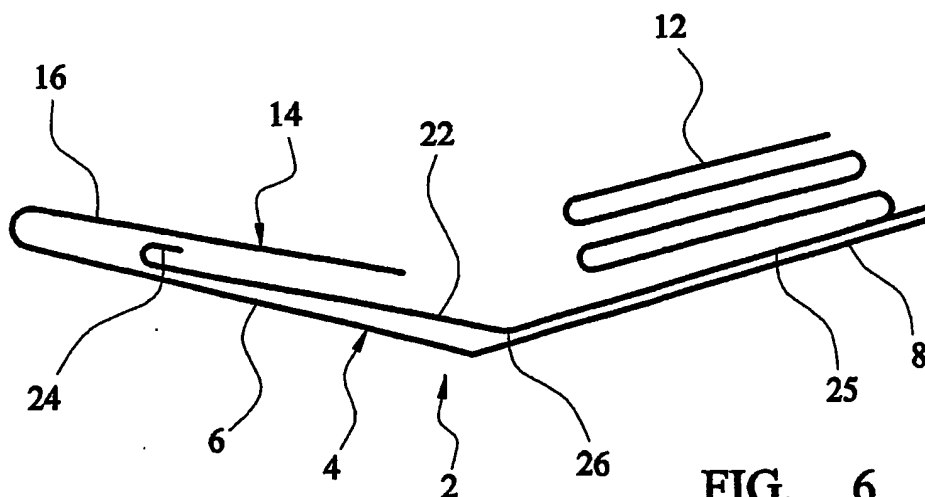


FIG. 6

-5/14-

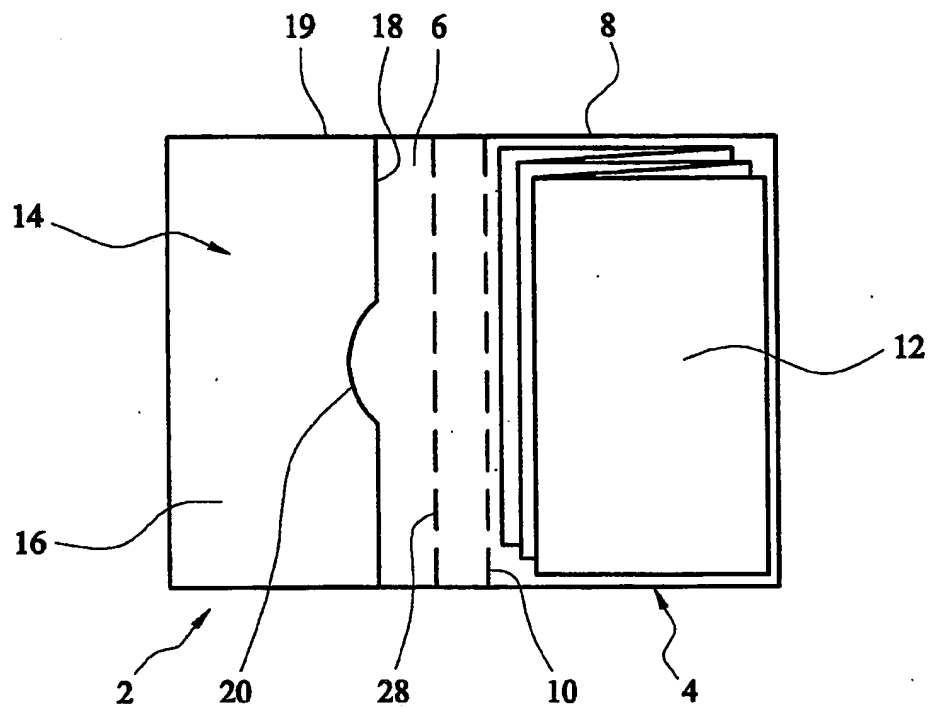


FIG. 7

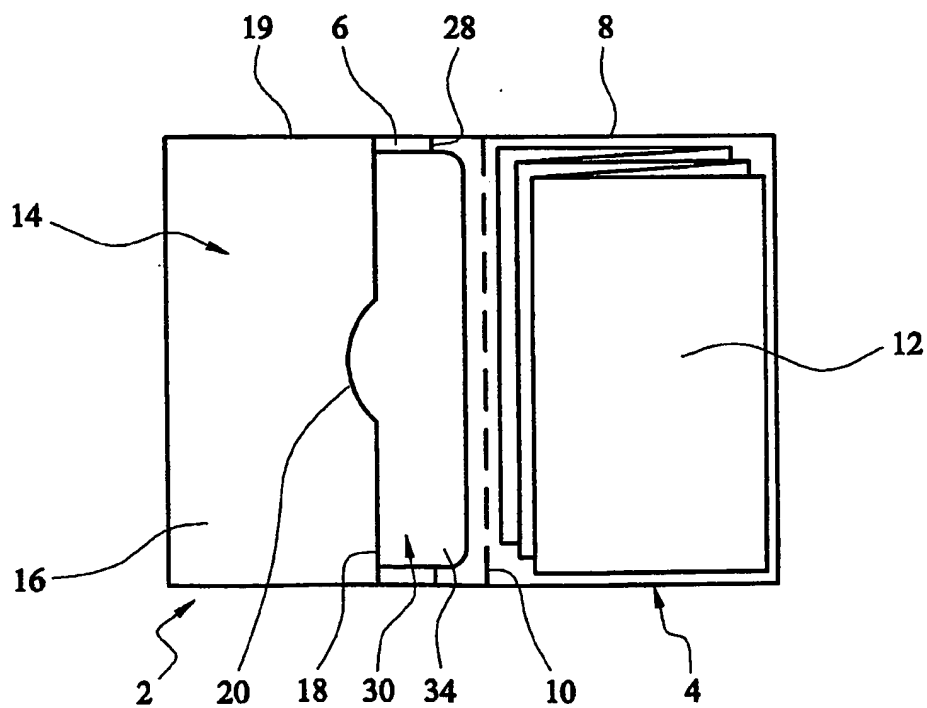


FIG. 8

-6/14-

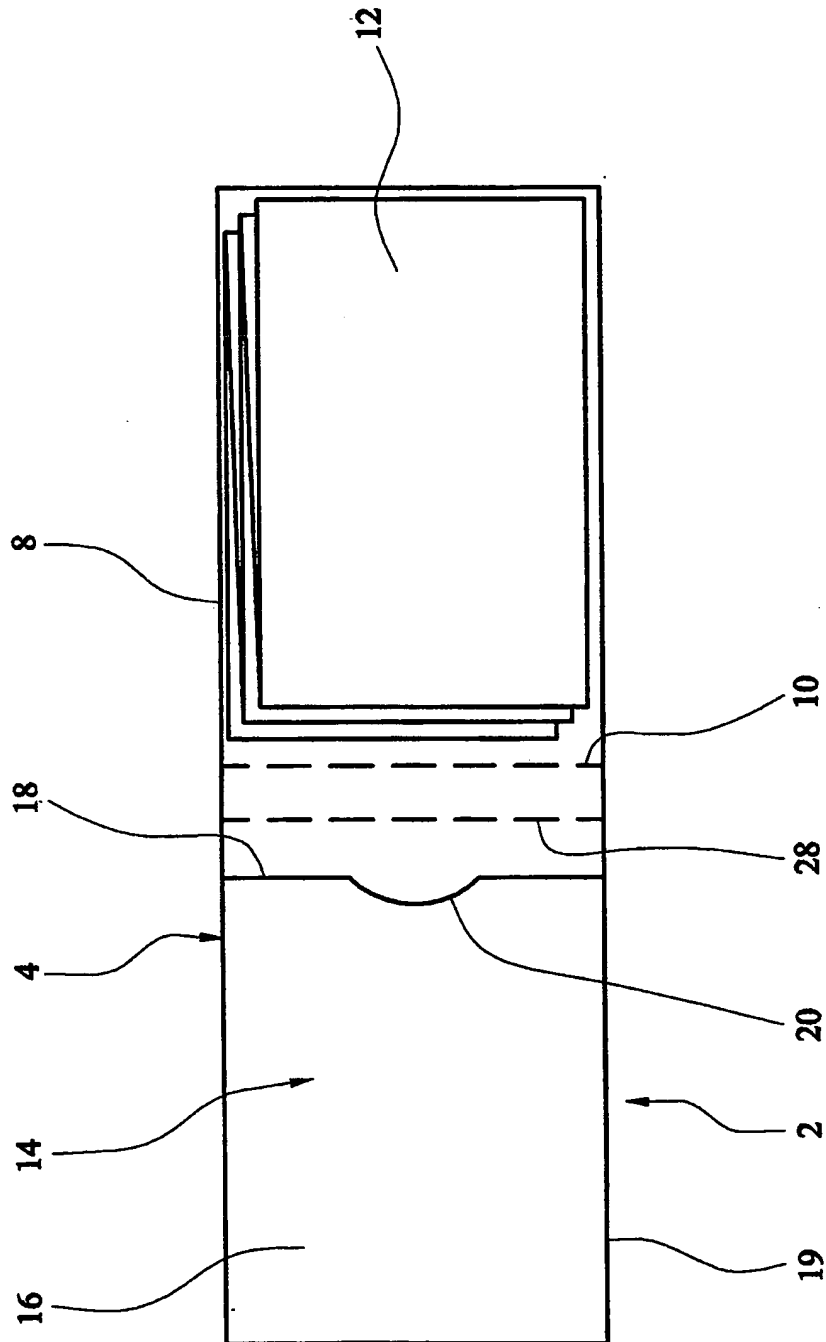


FIG. 9

-7/14-

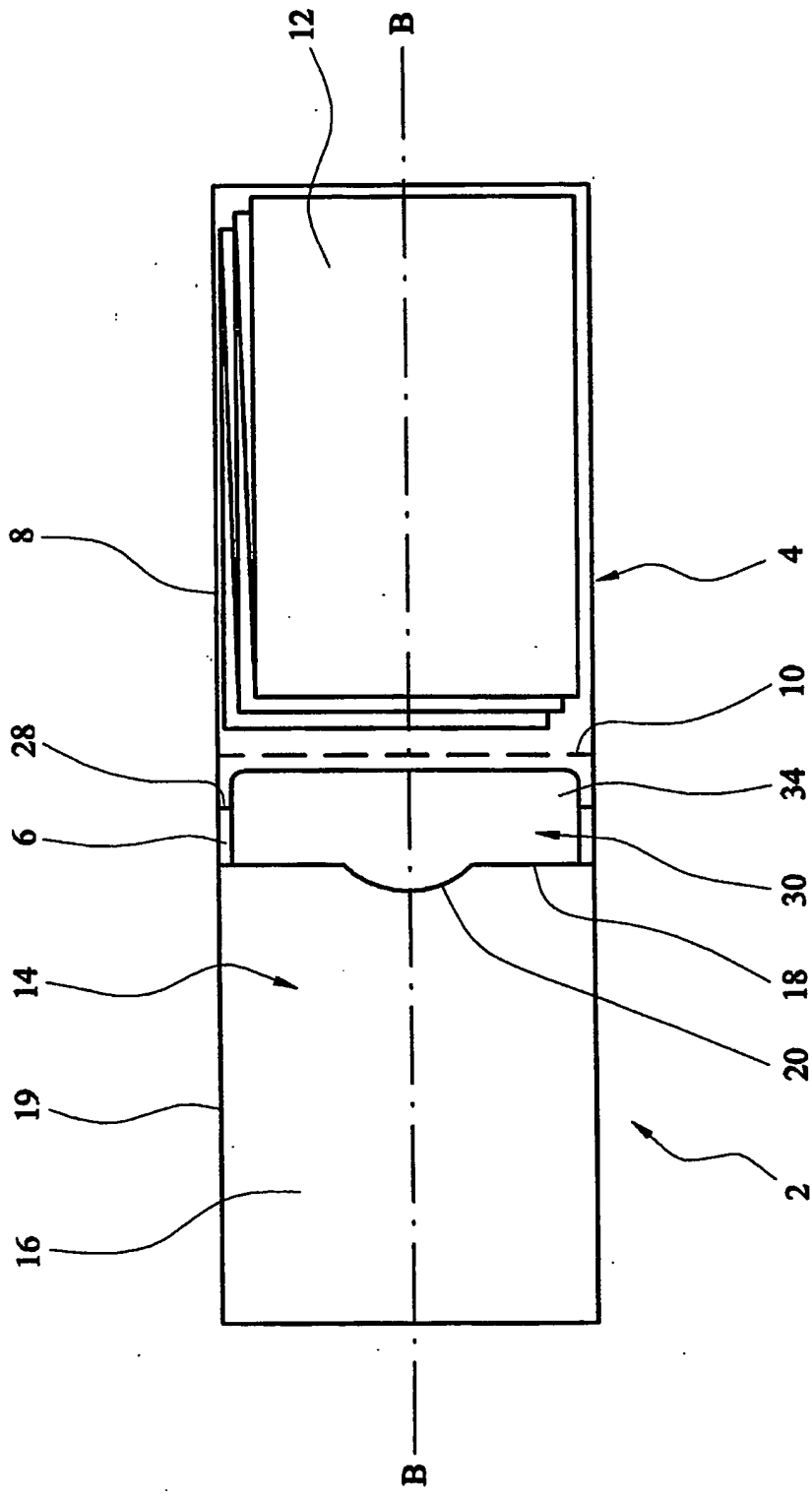


FIG. 10

-8/14-

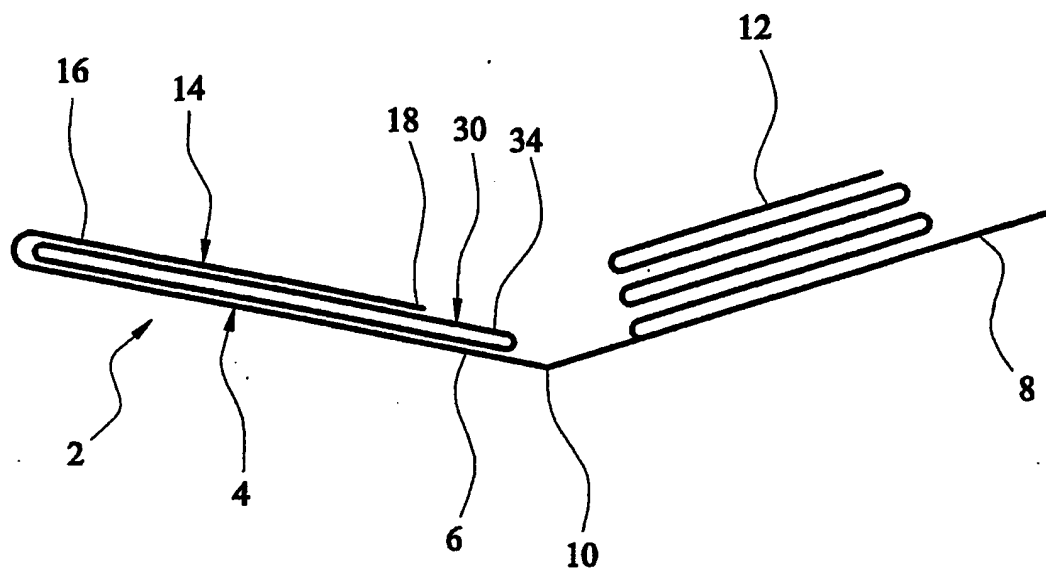


FIG. 11A

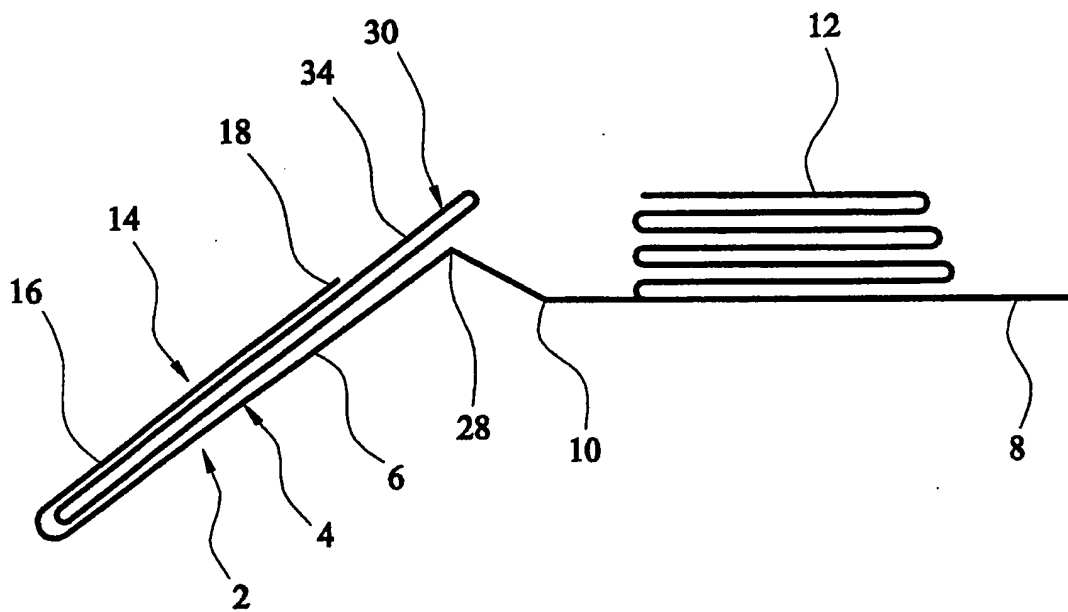


FIG. 11B

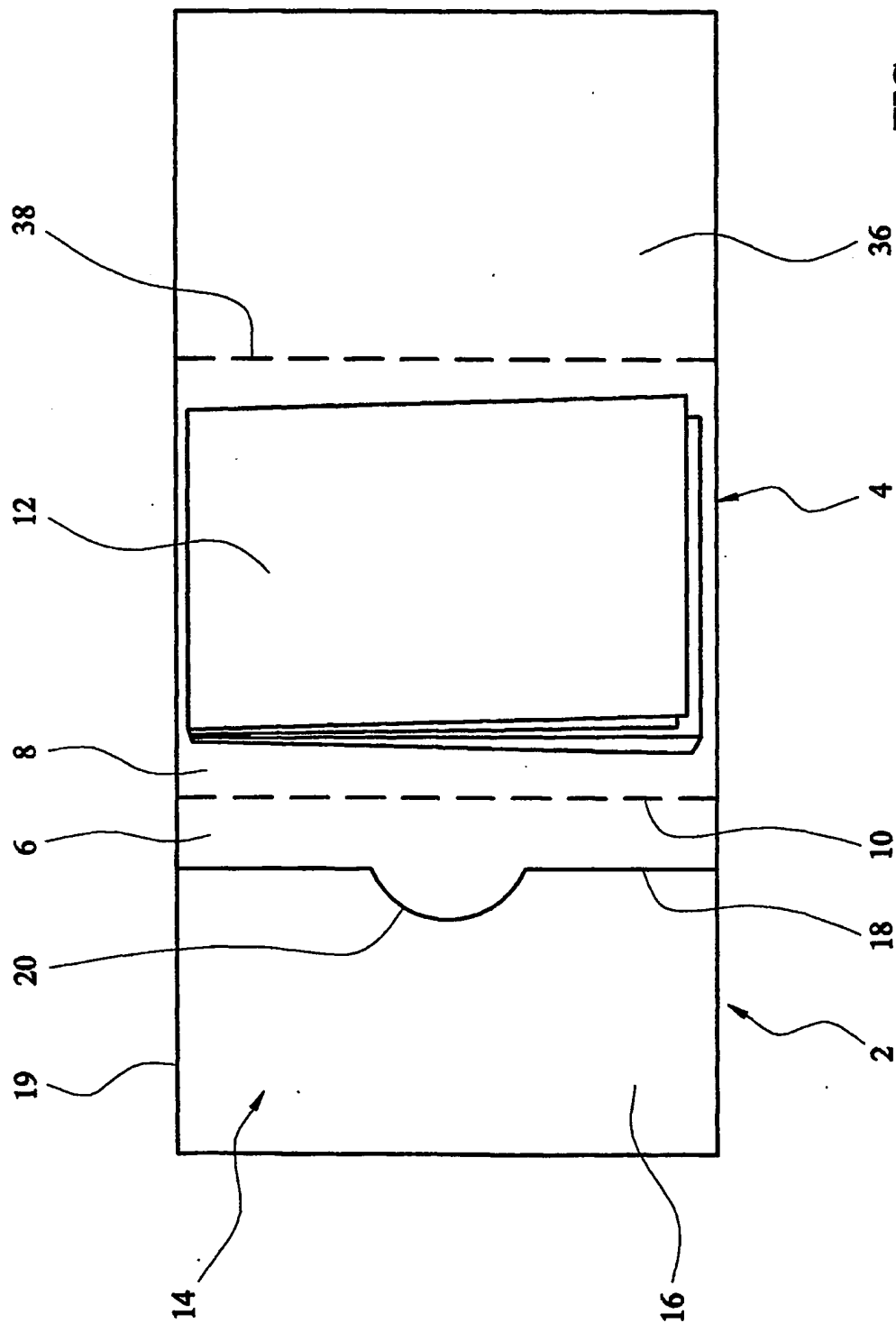


FIG. 12

-10/14-

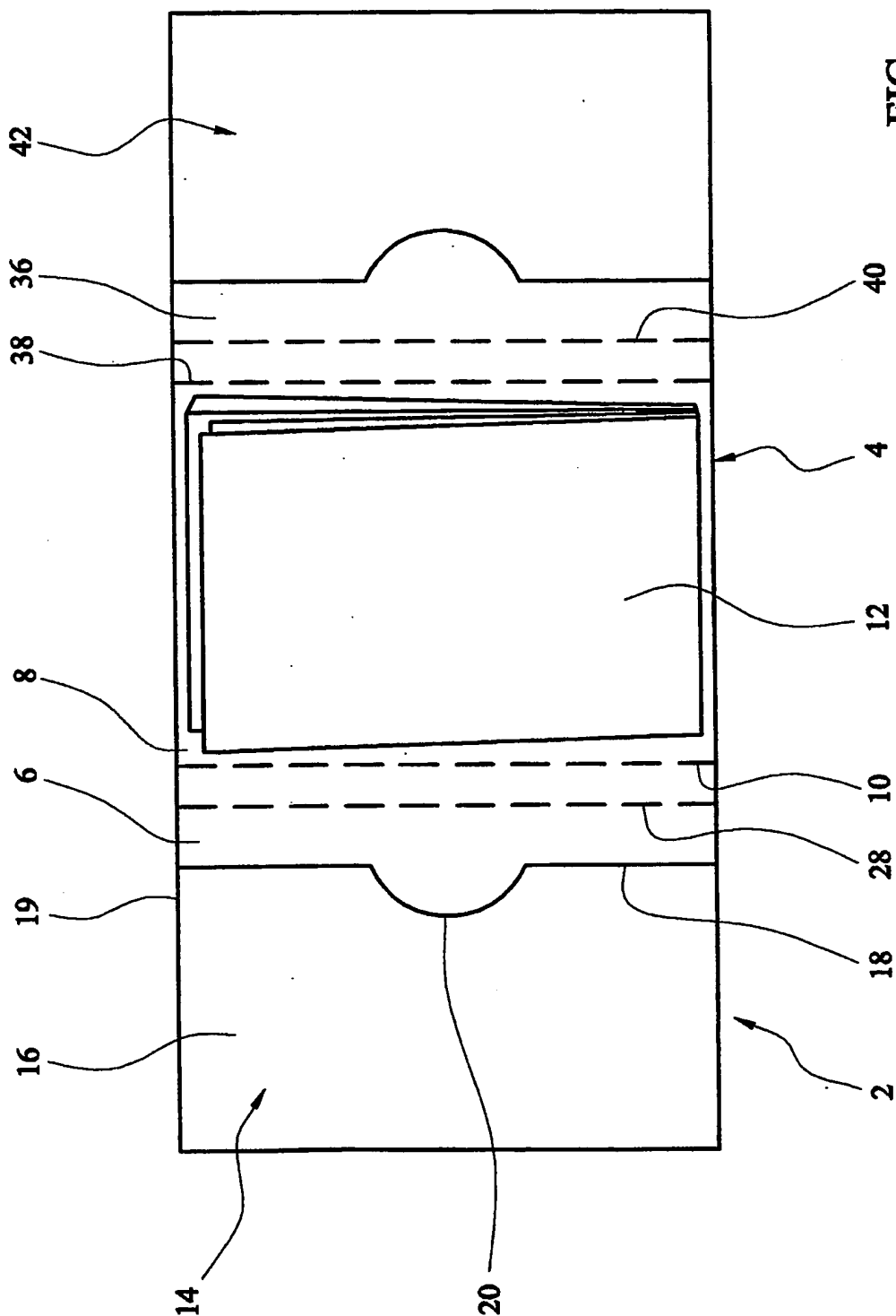
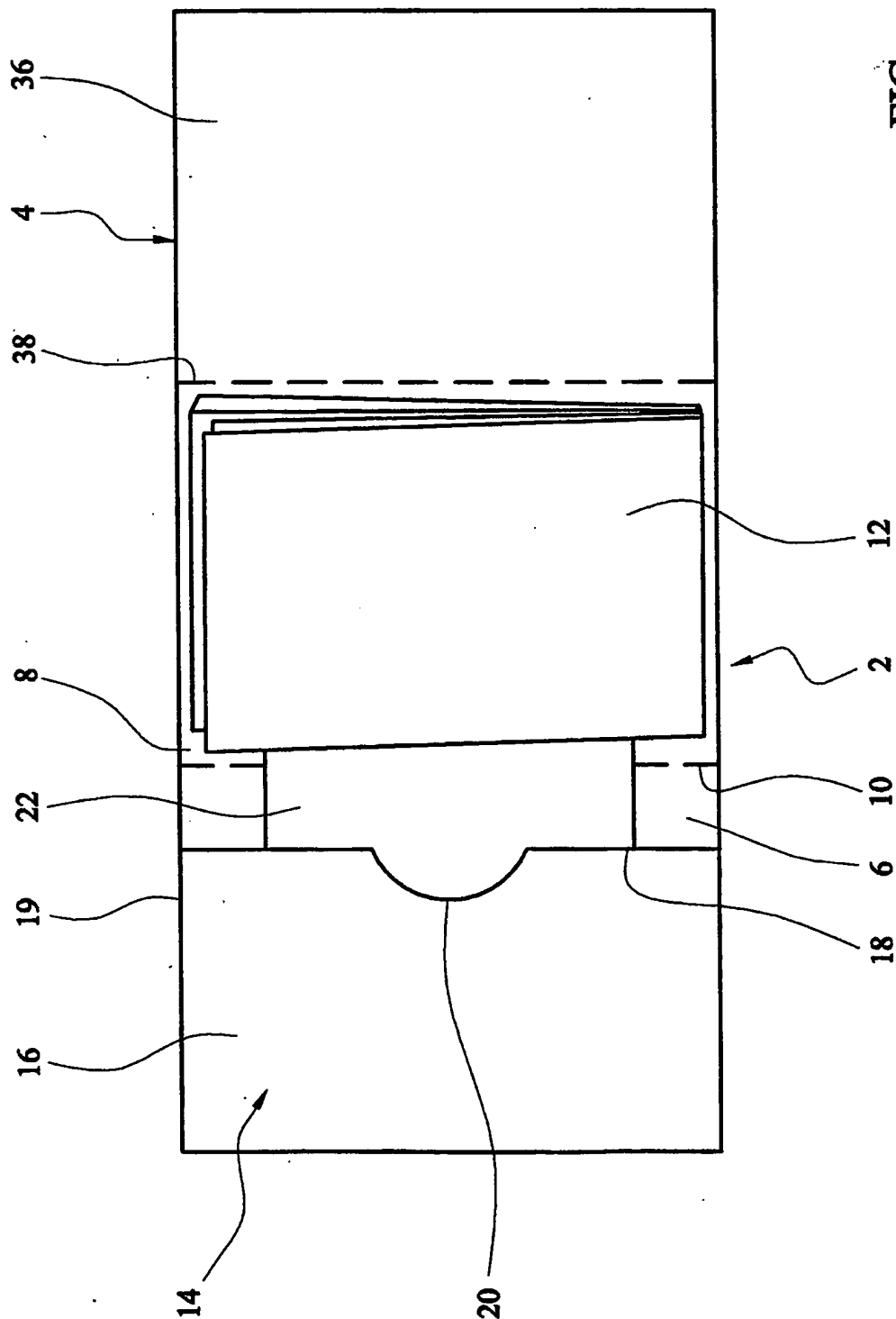


FIG. 13



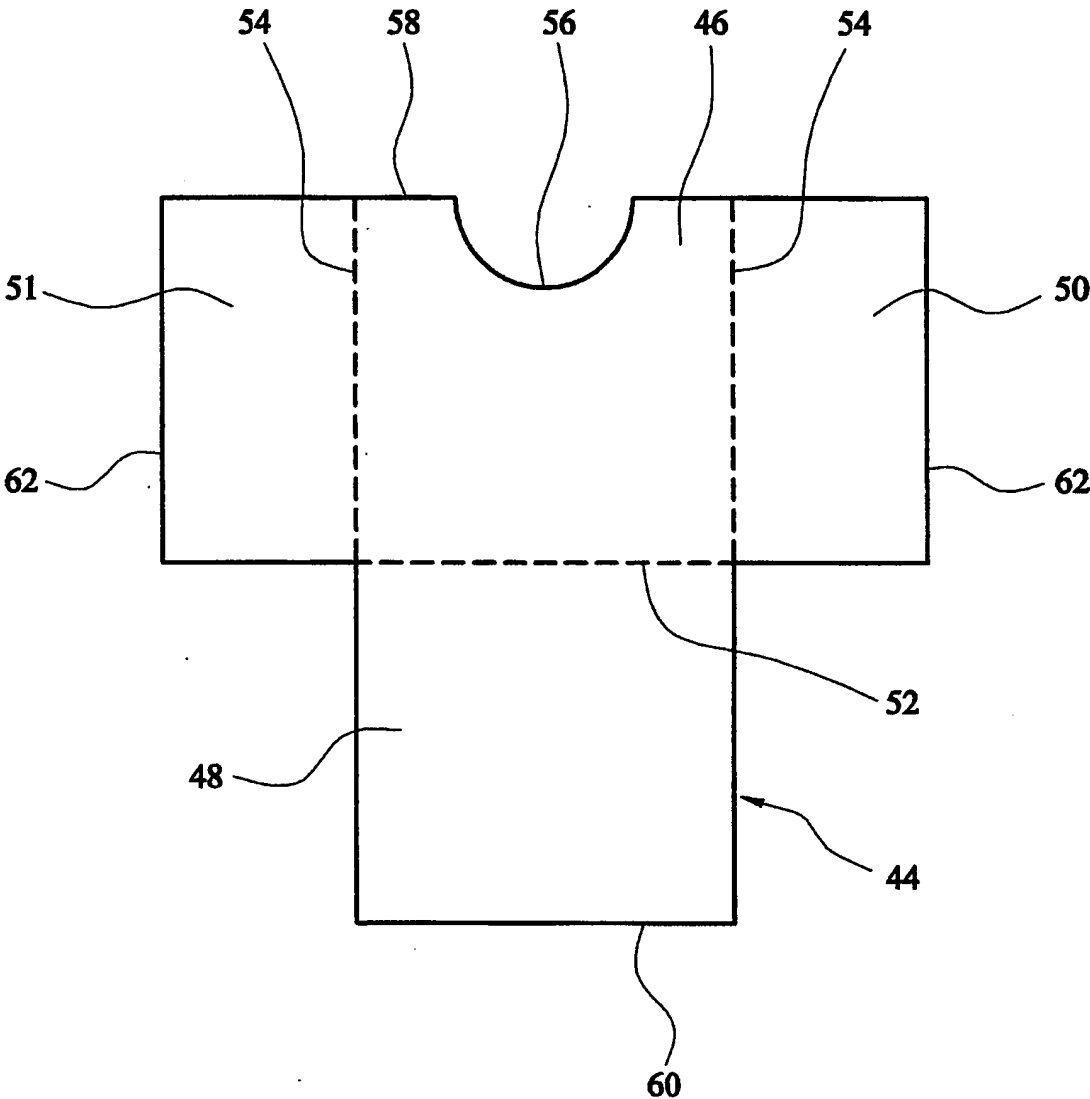


FIG. 15

-13/14-

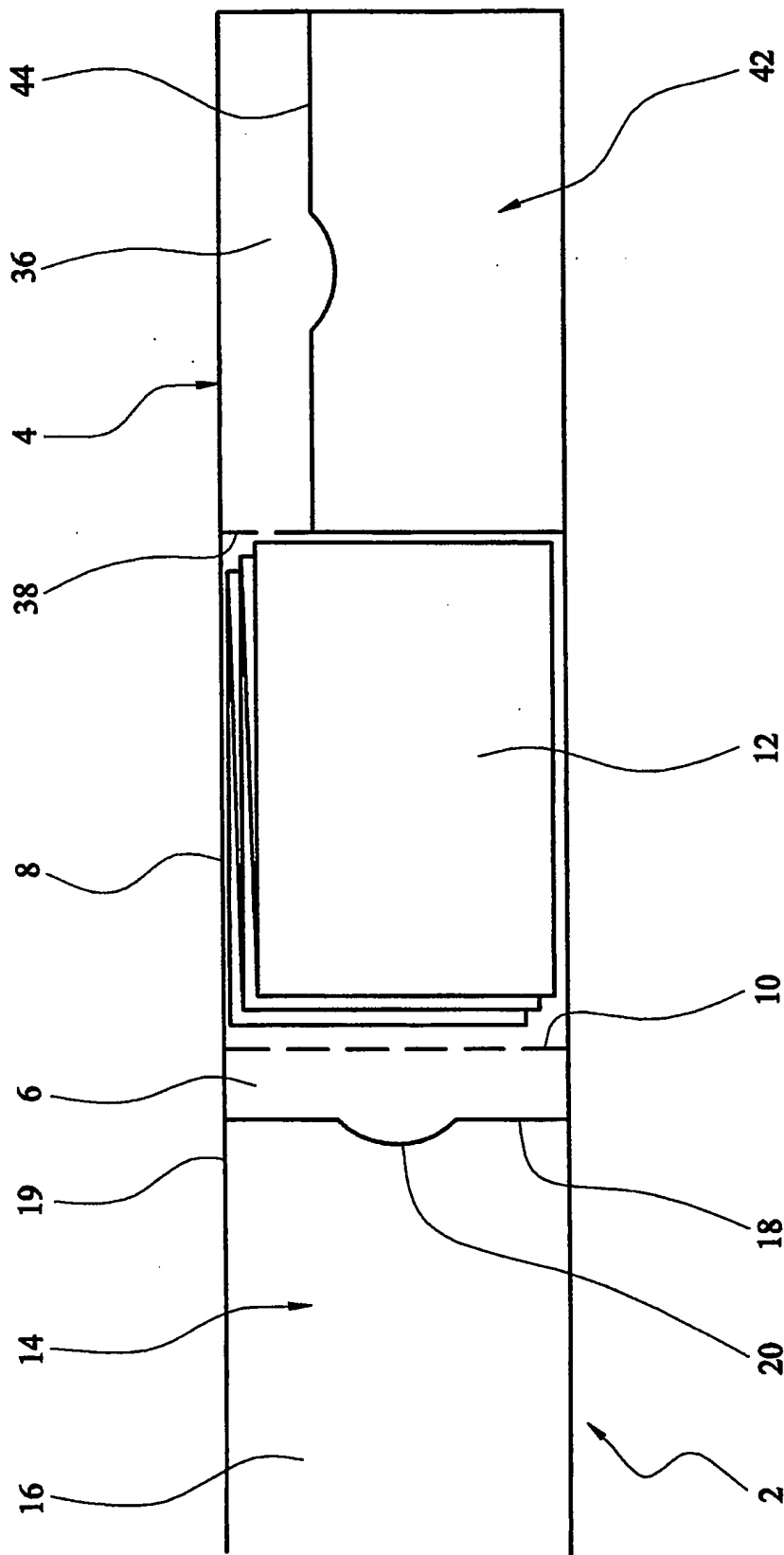


FIG. 16

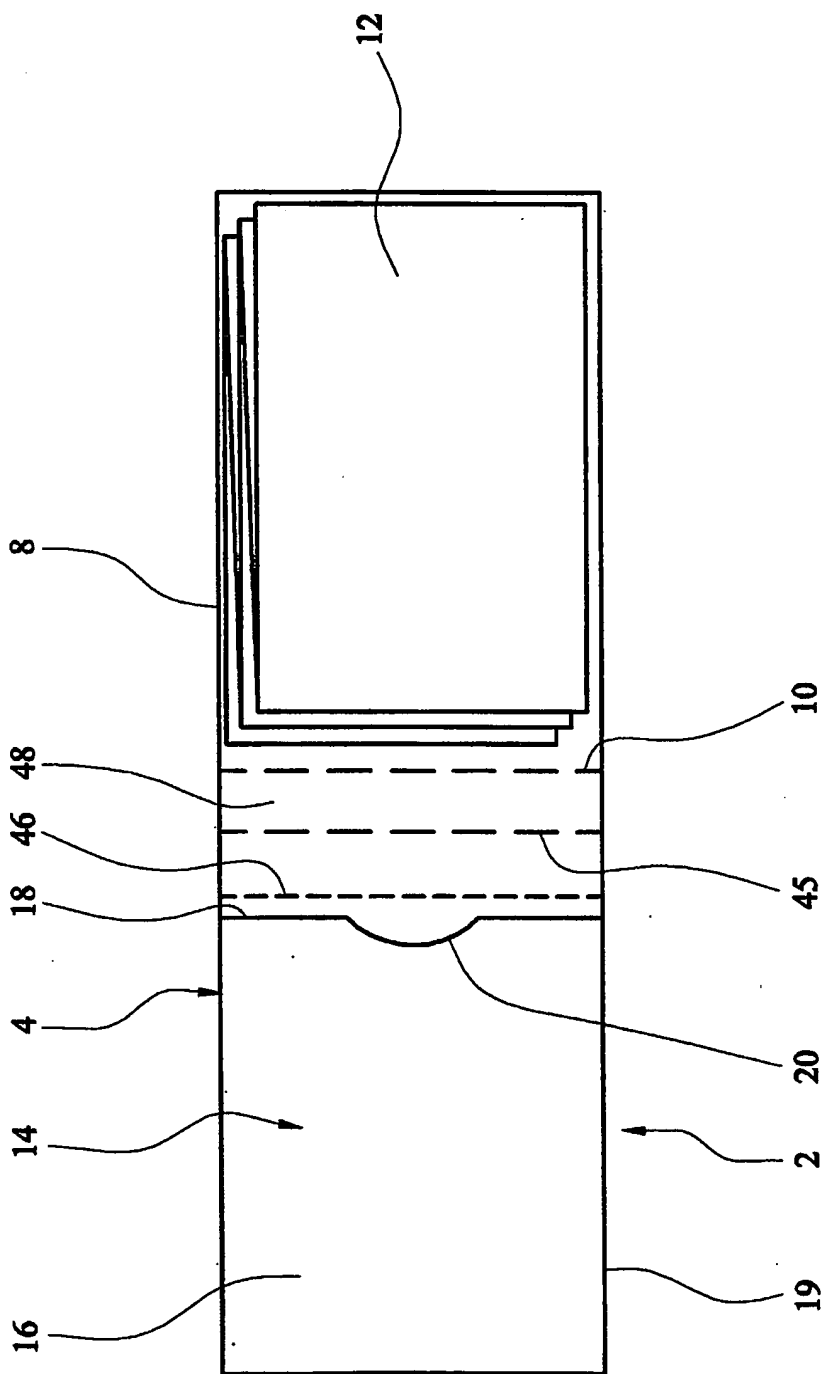


FIG. 17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/05032

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B42D15/00 B42F7/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B42D B42F A45C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 216 979 A (DANIEL JANIK) 12 August 1980 (1980-08-12) the whole document	1-3,9,10
X	WO 99 26792 A (POCKET CARD MINIPRINTS) 3 June 1999 (1999-06-03) page 12, paragraph 3 -page 13, paragraph 1; figures 13,14	1-5
A	DE 299 22 507 U (THOMAS FYE) 20 April 2000 (2000-04-20) the whole document	1
A	US 6 158 777 A (BRIAN M. TWARDOSZ) 12 December 2000 (2000-12-12) the whole document	1
-/-		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 February 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/02/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

Europeaan Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Loncke, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/05032

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 325 216 A (AARON FUEST) 18 November 1998 (1998-11-18) page 4, line 27 -page 6, line 14; figures 1-4	16,17, 27-31
A	US 3 970 130 A (EVERETT RANDOLPH CASEY) 20 July 1976 (1976-07-20) the whole document	33

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/05032

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4216979	A	12-08-1980	NONE	
WO 9926792	A	03-06-1999	DE 29720947 U1 DE 19810316 A1 WO 9926792 A1	08-01-1998 15-07-1999 03-06-1999
DE 29922507	U	20-04-2000	DE 29922507 U1	20-04-2000
US 6158777	A	12-12-2000	AU 4287296 A WO 9617333 A1	19-06-1996 06-06-1996
GB 2325216	A	18-11-1998	WO 9854719 A2	03-12-1998
US 3970130	A	20-07-1976	NONE	